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When there is not enough supply of money generated by a central government, people come up with creative solutions to satisfy their needs.. Our first article discusses one such idea.

This is followed by a second solution, that of countermarking, which was often used either privately or the government in times of need to re-value items already in circulation.

Our final piece combines your editor's interest in matters numismatic and genealogical to provide possible evidence of the veracity of an ancient claimed ancestry.

At some point, I would like to see a revival of the Members' Page in which you presented us with items you are perplexed about, or have questions that need answering.

Submissions always welcome.

Joseph Uphoff

Editor

Ephemeral Camp Tokens of “Empresa Nacional de Bolivia”

William Camacho Mendoza

EMPRESA NACIONAL DE BOLIVIA

With the purpose of colonizing the Chiquitanía, uniting it with stable roads to the vital centers of the country and opening international communication through the fluvial network of Del Plata, Miguel Suárez Arana created the "Empresa Nacional de Bolivia" in 1874. He sent the government of Tomás Frías a request to explore and build a road linking Santa Cruz de la Sierra with the southeast of the country, build a port on the right bank of the Paraguay river, and establish a navigation line equipped with boats necessary to navigate the Paraguay river and connect with Buenos Aires.

Suárez Arana left Cochabamba on October 8, 1875 arriving at the Bay of Cáceres on November 5. On November 10 of the same year, he founded the Puerto Suárez National Port on the banks of the Cáceres Lagoon.

In 1878, the government of General Hilarión Daza extended the concession to Suarez, empowering him to found another port in Laguna Gaiba with the respective opening of roads.

In 1884 the cruceño (from Santa Cruz) Suárez Arana, tireless adventurer, visionary businessman, crazy, and dreamer, having traveled several times the Bolivian East for a few years, decided to claim sovereignty against Paraguay. For such an ambitious project, he proposed to the government of Gregorio Pacheco to build a port on the north bank of the Paraguay River near the Barranco de los Chamacocos and it would link the town of Gutiérrez in the Cordillera Province of Santa Cruz de la Sierra with extensive roads.

By Supreme Resolution of November 18, 1884 signed by the ~~then~~ president of the republic, Dr. Gregorio Pacheco (1884-1888), granted Mr. Suarez Arana extensive powers to found a port that would be called Puerto Pacheco in honor of the president Gregorio Pacheco, who was the biggest sponsor of this great feat.

Mr. Suárez Arana obtained the sum of 50,000 bolivianos as a loan from the government recoverable through the future customs revenues to be generated in the collection to be made in Puerto Pacheco. In addition, the Legation of Bolivia in Buenos Aires also contributed with the sum of 60,000 Argentine pesos to the cause.

Thus, the action of Miguel Suarez Arana to approach the department of Santa Cruz with the Rio Paraguay through the ports Suarez and very special Pacheco, was the most outstanding event of this bold cruceño.

In September of 1885 Mr. Suarez Arana signed a report to the Minister of the Interior and Industry in Puerto Patiño (founded on July 16, 1881) on the progress with respect to Puerto Pacheco, he reported that: "On June 9, sailed from Buenos Aires, Captain Anders E. Gómez

with the **Sucre** and **Santa Cruz** vapors and the **Otuquis** and **Piray** sloops. On the 13th of the same month, the steam vessel **Bolivia** commanded by Captain Federico W. Fernandez with the Bolivian flag sailing the Paraná and Paraguay rivers after having received enormous support from the Argentine Government and great affection of the Paraguayan Government ".

With the authorization granted by the Republic of Paraguay and signed by President Bernardino Caballero, Suarez Arana continued his trip to Alto Paraguay and upon reaching the place exclaimed: "Here I stop, here I raise my flag and its folds slid in the wind will reach the capital of Bolivia. "

FOUNDATION OF PUERTO PACHECO

On July 13, 1885, after traveling 650 leagues (8458 km), the expedition reached the Barranco de los Chamacocos, (ethnic group of the Ayoreos that occupied the right margin of the Paraguay River) where they had to start the works of Puerto Pacheco, and It is on this site that the expedition began to clear forest. He then reports on the work of 15 kilometers of a 6-meter-wide road, the drilling of water wells and the obtaining of "abundant and rich" water at 17 meters depth.

Suárez Arana added in another paragraph: "I told the progressive government of my country that I came to conquer a territory and put its numerous inhabitants under the laws of the Republic. Thus, the numerous Chamacocos tribe, made up of more than 300 strong and robust men, heads of family that together surpass 1000 souls, has presented me submissive and happy through their different caciques, I have given them some tools, clothes and viands. And as they inhabit the 20th degree of our territory, indisputable until today, they took to their operations center a national flag having first understood that they are subjects of Bolivia and are under the protection of their laws ". On July 16 of the same year, the expeditionaries headed by Suárez Arana founded Puerto Pacheco, as it had been entrusted.

"If Puerto Pacheco does not join a road with the capital Sucre, things do not work, everything will have been lost," said Miguel Suárez Arana. Very sadly, history proved it that way.

CAMP OF PUERTO PACHECO

Suarez Arana and his Empresa Nacional de Bolivia had set up their camp with first class tents and had all the comforts for the expedition members. In addition, they had a perfectly established secretariat, Harbor Master's office, chair and shooting carts, carpentry shop, sawmill, and a bakery. They also had dairy cows and domestic animals that made a comfortable life together for the residents of the camp.

The camp enjoyed a couple of "**pulperias**" camp stores well supplied with basic consumer goods for good living such as: fresh bread, milk per liter, high quality cheese, charque, (dried meat) and also luxury items such as spirits. You could also find in these stores, imported tobacco, European soaps, tools, ammunition and clothing.

TOKENS OF EMPRESA PACHECO



Metal: Brass
Weight: 2.0 gr
Edge: Plain
Diameter: 19 mm



Metal: Brass
Weight: 4.2 gr
Edge: Plain
Diameter: 24 mm

Obverse: EMPRESA/(ornament)/NACIONAL/(9stars)/DE/BOLIVIA.

Reverse: (rosette)/FICHA/POR/(rosette)/face value in floreate circle/CENTAVOS-1885.

The official monetary currency of the state did not reach these latitudes as a result of distance. As a replacement to this monetary failure, Suarez Arana implemented its private currency manufactured with the registration of his company and year of coinage. These tokens would serve as a means of payment to the builders of Puerto Pacheco, they would be exchanged in the pulperias for all kinds of items.

These coins in the best scenario of their existence could have circulated within the camp between 10 to 12 months. But only if we speculate that they would have been manufactured prior to the founding of Puerto Pacheco. Thus, in the national and international market, these nice tokens appear on sale and in auctions in uncirculated and almost uncirculated state, explaining by themselves the ephemeral use they had inside the camp. For the correct cataloging we must clarify that these private coins were minted in brass (copper and zinc alloy) and not in bronze (copper and tin alloy) as some books and catalogs erroneously suggest. There is no documentation or mint mark indicating the place of minting of the tokens, however it is possible that they could have been manufactured in Argentina.

In some recognized and specialized catalogs in transport tokens, we find the 5 and 10 cents tokens of the Empresa Nacional de Bolivia wrongly listed, as well as a specimen of the studied pieces- as published in the catalog "Monedas Medallas y Billetes de Bolivia" from Mr. Asbún - Karmy without any information. For a long time the question was circulated about the host company of the tokens, what was the task that they carried out and to which department they belonged to. Therefore, the correct attribution of these coins was not conclusive due to the lack

of numismatic literature. We consulted period newspapers, books, and of course the internet. The hard work of research brought interesting results. As a result, the little mystery that so far has been around, we can declare it solved. These tokens circulated in the Puerto Pacheco's camp in the department of Santa Cruz for a very short time, possibly from its foundation in 1885, during its construction, and until the abrupt retirement of Miguel Suárez Arana in 1886.

NACIONALIZATION OF PUERTO PACHECO

Mr. Suarez Arana not only had economic problems in the development of his company, they were skillfully solved by this intrepid cruceño. He also had to go through difficult moments in the progress of his assignment due to the collusion of some of the government's own characters, who actually led the company to disaster and the possibility that Bolivia had a port on the Paraguay River.

Santiago Vaca Guzmán who was the one who asked the Bolivian government to nationalize the Empresa Nacional de Bolivia as the only solution to the problems confronting the company, was presented in December 1885 in Puerto Pacheco. The reason for the unusual visit was to ask Suárez Arana on behalf of the government to turn over the company, to order the suspension of work, to dismiss the workers and to remove Mr. Suarez from the management of the Empresa Nacional de Bolivia.

Sad, downcast and frustrated, Suarez Arana- left Puerto Pacheco,-lowering the national flag down in June of 1886, pressed by a thousand arguments and forced by the government and with certainty by his own Bolivian compatriots.

* Don Joaquin Lavayén pronounced himself in these circumstances: "Bolivia lost rope and goat forever. The departure of Miguel Suárez Arana from Puerto Pacheco served to later occupy Puerto Pacheco the Paraguayans giving that port the name of **Bahia Negra**".

This is how Puerto Pacheco on the Paraguay river founded by Miguel Suárez Arana was abandoned so that unfortunately the Paraguayans would occupy it with all its infrastructure in 1888. Miguel Suárez Arana would receive 225 square leagues of land from the government as a reward for colonizing work that he had executed for the Republic of Bolivia.



MIGUEL SUÁREZ ARANA

Miguel Suárez Arana was born in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on March 24, 1834 and died on December 19, 1893 at the age of 59 in the town of El Fuerte, a town near Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Miguel Suárez Arana was as well Joaquín Aguirre Lavayén said: "A great **bandeirante** from eastern Bolivia", perhaps the greatest bandeirante in Bolivian history.

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Mysterious European Countermarks 2:

15 MORE OBSCURE EUROPEAN COUNTERMARKS

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

In the sixteenth and seventeenth century there are many examples of countermarked coins in Europe, usually associated with devaluations or wars or both. Here are some more I have encountered over the last couple of years, some not well documented. Unfortunately many of these coins are worn and the countermarks only make their condition worse.

The first coin is a Half Taler (16 groschen) of Albrecht von Brandenburg, Master of the Teutonic Order (1511-21), struck in 1520 during the siege of Königsberg by the Poles.

The Teutonic Order had come to Prussia in the early 13th century to subdue and convert the pagan Baltic Prussians. The Order came to rule Prussia under charters issued by the Pope and the Holy Roman Emperor. They soon clashed with the rising power of Poland and, after the Second Peace of Thorn (1466), the Teutonic Order was under Polish suzerainty. However, the Order was still also subject to the Papacy and the Holy Roman Emperor. Since 1501 the Emperor had made clear his objections to the Order offering tribute to the Polish king. Albrecht, elected Grand Master in 1511 partly in the hope that his relationship to his maternal uncle, Sigismund I the Old, Grand Duke of Lithuania and King of Poland, would facilitate a settlement of the disputes, refused to submit to the crown of Poland. In 1517 he signed an alliance with Vasili III of Muscovy. Albert now felt he held the upper hand and demanded from the Polish king the return of Royal Prussia and Warmia territories, as well as a large remuneration for "Polish occupation" of those territories. In response, in December 1519, the main Polish [sejm](#) (or parliament), declared that a state of war existed between the Polish Kingdom and the Order. The Poles attacked Königsberg but were unable to take it since they lacked artillery power. The war dragged on until Emperor Charles V demanded that the Teutonic Knights and Poles stop their hostilities and aid the defense of Europe against the Ottoman infidels who had invaded Hungary. Both sides, tired with the war, agreed to an armistice on April 5, 1521, in the Compromise of Toruń.



Here is a detailed description of the coin:

Obv.: ALBERTVS DEI:G:MARCHI.BRANDE In legend 4 shields with clockwise arms of Brandenburg (eagle),Burgrave of Nuremberg (lion), Hohenzollern (quarters) & Pomerania (griffin). Teutonic Order 4 quarters arms c/m on Madonna & child with sceptre on crescent moon, surrounded by rays, all in circle

Rev.: + HONOR.MAGISTRI.IVSTICIAM.DILIGIT. (the Master's honour loves justice) 1520 Master's arms (eagle) at centre of floriate cross in circle with decoration

AR. 34mm. 12.20 g. Neumann 37, Schulten 702, Kopicki 9076, Vossberg 1226 - all without c/m.

After the armistice the coins struck during the siege were countermarked to reduce their value by one third. This particular coin, which appeared in a WAG (Westfälische Auktionsgesellschaft für Münzen und Medaillen) Auction in Feb. 2009 (Lot 438), appears to be unique. However, countermarked 24 Schilling and 1/4 Taler coins are also known.

Incidentally, within months of the truce Albrecht saw the ranks of his crusading order decimated by mass conversions to Lutheranism and his army melted away. In 1525 he himself converted and, to save his livelihood, begged Sigismund to turn Prussia into a secular fief of the Polish kingdom and to accept him as its hereditary duke. The rule of the Teutonic Order in Prussia came to an end.

The next coin was struck by another Albrecht: a 1525 2 Schilling of Albrecht VII the Handsome, Duke of Mecklenburg (1503-47), with a bull's head countermark:



Obv.: rosette ALBERTVS.DEI. GRACI. DVX. MEGA Facing half-fig. holding 3 flowers in left hand, on rt. shoulder Mecklenburg bull's head c/m

Rev.:HELP.GOTH. GLUCK. BEROOTH (prepared for good fortune with God's help). 1525.

Cross of shields with arms of Mecklenburg (bull's head), Rostock(griffin), Stargard(eagles) & Werle(bull's head), in centre Schwerin (divisions per fesse), in angles leaf mm (=Moritz Schacht, mm, Güstrow, 1523-41)

AR. 28.5 mm. 4.39 g. Coin without c/m: Kunzel 58 C/a. KM.MB 61. Schult.2116 .

On 20 June 1523 Albrecht VII made an agreement, confirmed on 21 Jan.1524, with Stendhal mint master Martin Füge to produce 4000 Fl. of silver coins per month. Füge did not fulfill the contract and around 1526 went to the Mecklenburg mint in Wittenberg and struck underweight

false 2 Schilling, Dreiling and 1/4 Gulden. Forced to honour these coins, on 13 Dec. 1526 Albrecht decreed that good 2 Schillings should be countermarked with a bull's head and all others should be forbidden. The Güstrow mint master, Moritz Schacht, was implicated in the affair and forced to pay Fl. 32,000 for the costs of redeeming the false coins.

The third coin is a 1537 Taler of Ulrich, Duke of Württemberg with a Habsburg imperial double eagle countermark.



Obv.: rosette D:G. VL:DVX. WIRT:ET: TECK. CO: MO:BELL (= Mömpelgard): Z Hatted bust l. in circle

Rev.: rosette DA.GLORIAM. DEO. OMNIPOTENTI (give glory to omnipotent God). Crowned double eagle in circle c/m on quartered arms of Württemberg (antlers), Teck (field of lozanges), Reichssturmefahne (flag with eagle=hereditary flag bearer of the Empire) and Mömpelgard (2 fish) dividing 1.5 3.7, in circle

39 mm. 27.43 g. Klein/Raff 100a. Dav.9961v. KM.MB 65v. C/M: de Mey Contremarques 4/CXXXV/2, cm 337.

Ulrich had a turbulent life. His mother died in childbirth and his father was mentally deranged. He succeeded his uncle Eberhard III as Duke of Württemberg in 1498 at the age of 11 and was declared of age in 1503 at the age of 16. In 1511 he married Sabina of Bavaria, niece of Emperor Maximilian. Unhappy with the marriage, Ulrich was attracted to the wife of Hans van Hutten but in an altercation in 1515 killed Hans. Sabina fled from her husband and sought help from the Emperor and her brother Wilhelm IV of Bavaria. Ulrich was twice put under Imperial ban under which you were legally considered dead, and anyone was allowed to rob, injure or kill

you without legal consequences. Unpopular with his subjects, the Swabian League finally drove Ulrich from Württemberg in 1519 and sold his territory to Emperor Charles V. Ulrich then spent time in Switzerland, France & Germany in what Wikipedia describes as brigand exploits and in the service of France. He tried to invade Württemberg in 1525 with an army of mainly Swiss and French soldiers but failed and again became a fugitive. Having converted to the Reformed Church, he became friends with Philip of Hesse, one of the leaders of the Schmalkaldic League set up to defend the Protestant princes against opposition from Catholic forces led by the Emperor. In 1534 Ulrich and Philip of Hesse invaded Württemberg again and defeated the Imperial forces at Lauffen. Ferdinand, Emperor Charles V's brother and the Habsburg Archduke of Austria, agreed to recognize Ulrich as Duke of Württemberg again but only under Austrian suzerainty.

We now finally get to the circumstances of the countermark on Ulrich's Taler. As duke, he quickly implemented the doctrines of Luther, especially the seizure of church property to help his impoverished exchequer. He also increased taxation and, not content with that, struck debased coinage.

Some of these Talers and Half Talers, along with debased coinage of other German mints, came to circulate in Tyrol in Austrian territory, competing with the good local coins struck at Hall. As a short-term measure Emperor Charles V made use of his suzerainty over Württemberg and ordered that these Talers (and Halbtalers) should be countermarked with an Imperial eagle to make their true value (64 Kreuzer instead of 68) visible to everyone. (Klein/Raff, citing Moser & Tursky, *Die Münzstätte Hall in Tirol*, 1477-1665, p.80, Note 37.).

The fourth coin is a diner of King Charles of Spain (1516-58), better known as Emperor Charles V, struck in the town of Vic (in Catalan or Vich in Spanish) in Catalonia. There was a long tradition of Catalonian towns receiving a concession from the King to strike low value coins for local use.



Obv.: V on its side CAROLVS (hardly legible REX.) I triangle of dots V countermark obliterating crowned bust l.

Rev.: VI C(reversed) VTAS (should be CIVITAS) VICENSIS Diamond-shaped shield with Vic arms ((vertical bars of Aragon/Catalonia & cross, quartered, partly obliterated by reverse of c/m)

CU. 15 mm. 0.78 g. Cru.CG 3898b var. Cru.CG.L.2237v.

According to Crusafont i Sabater, the leading authority on Catalan coinage, on July 12 1532 the Town Council of Vic, faced with an influx of counterfeit coins, decided to accept but distinguish

the counterfeit coins, in order to maintain the credit of the local coinage. Genuine coins like this one were probably countermarked at the same time in 1532 to confirm their value.

The fifth example is a later low value coin of another Catalan town, a senyal of Salàs de Pallars, with two SA countermarks. First documented in 840, Salàs de Pallars became a local commercial centre, celebrating 4 fairs annually in the 16th century. At some point in the 16th century it received the right to strike local coinage.



Obv.: + (not legible DE LA) VILA DE (illegible SA) LAS Town arms (eagle) between 2 SA countermarks
Rev.: Obverse incuse

Billon. 16 mm. 0.28 g. Cru.C.G.3837a var. Cru.L.2082v.

This coin has no ruler's name nor a date. According to Dr. Crusafont, this coin should be dated in the 16th century, because the lettering would be Gothic in earlier times, and in the 17th century the small coinage were two-sided struck "diners". Again, the coins were probably countermarked SA (presumably = Salas) in the 17th century to confirm their value at a time when there was an influx of forgeries but there is no documentation of this countermarking

The sixth coin is an undated denier of Charles III, Duke of Lorraine (1545-1608) with a countermark of his successor Henri the Good (1608-24). Charles III confusingly is sometimes called Charles II. de Saulcy calls the duke 'Charles II, vulgarly called Charles III or the Great Duke.' The difference seems to be whether one includes Charles I, Duke of Lower Lorraine (953-993) - roughly today's Brabant in Belgium - as a ruler of Lorraine.



Here is a description of the coin:

Obv.: CARO.D.G. LOTAR. B(ar).DVX Crowned divided arms of Lorraine (diagonal bar with 3 eagles) & Bar (2 fish), breaking out of circle

Rev.: + MONETA o F_ACTA.NAN (made in Nancy) Crowned eaglelet c/m over sword pointing down, breaking out of circle

Billon. 17.5 mm. 0.89 g. deSaulcy Pl.XVIII,6 (mentions c/m p. 143-144 & 159-160). deMey-Lorraine 545 (sol with c/m). C/M: deMey C/M 40/IV/1, c/m 620.

In Jan. 1621 Henri had testons and other coins countermarked to change their value. The value of the teston of Lorraine was increased from 13 gros to 16 gros, with similar changes for other coins. The countermark is an eaglet, an heraldic eagle without beak or feet.

The Kipper-Wipper period in Germany (1621-23), when coin standards collapsed and there was a plethora of debased coinage ending in ruinous inflation, saw many countermarks to adjust the value of good coins.

Here is an example from Greifswald, an old Hanseatic city in northeastern Germany, in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Greifswald countermarked genuine good quality coins, in this case a 1621 3 Pfennig of Johann Albrecht II of Mecklenburg-Gustrow (1611-36), with GR to guarantee their quality and increase their value.



Obv: HANS.ALBRE:H(erzog):Z:M(ecklenburg): Mecklenburg arms (crowned bull's head) in circle

Rev.: 3 pellets III 3 pellets/PFEN/NING/.1621./. GR c/m.

CU. 20.5 mm. 2.78 g. Kunzel 478 E/a with c/m. Coin only: de Mey MCA 5. Eck.795. KM 37. Neumann 10162. Countermark: de Mey C/M 4/XLII/2, c/m 272.

Here is a 1622 3 Pfennig, a joint issue of Christian and his brother Wolrad IV, counts of Waldeck. It is countermarked on the obverse with the Waldeck arms, an 8-pointed star.



Obv.: WALDECK.16ZZ. 8-pointed star c/m on 8 pointed star (Waldeck arms) in circle

Rev.: LANT.MVNTZ.*. III (value) in circle

CU. 18 mm. 1.39 g. Weing.738. Neum. (with c/m) 10903. de Mey MCA 2v. Eck.1537v. KM 99v. Schön 2v. de Mey C/M 4/CXXIII/1, c/m 315.

Here is a similar 1622 Waldeck 4 Pfennig with the countermark on the reverse.



Obv.: WALDECK.16ZZ. 8 pointed star (Waldeck arms) in circle
 Rev.: LANT.MVNTZ.*. 8-pointed star c/m on IIII (value) in circle
 CU. 19 mm. 1.78 g. Weing.737. Neum. (with c/m) 10901v. de Mey MCA 3v. Eck.1538v. KM 102v. Schön 3v. de Mey C/M 4/CXXIII/1, c/m 315.

The countermarking was done in 1623-24 to guarantee these were genuine quality coins and protect people from debased forgeries.

The tenth countermark is G3 on a 1620 double schilling of Franz, Duke of Pomerania-Stettin.



Obv.: FRANCIS.I.D.G.DVX.S.P. Crowned griffin l. holding sword, partly obliterated by reverse of c/m
 Rev.: ADSIT.AB.ALTO (He will intervene from heaven).16.ZO. G 3 c/m over DS (= Doppelschilling) monogram

21.5 mm. 1.39 g. Hildisch 124. (c/m p.123,GS VI.). KM 61v.

This c/m was traditionally attributed to Greifswald (Friedrich p.46, de Mey C/M 4/XLII/1 (c/m 171)), an important town beginning with G. However, Hildisch cites Friedrich as doubting this attribution and thinks it somewhere else in Mecklenburg. The 3 in the c/m could be 3 Sechslinge (Mecklenburg) or 3 Schilling-Sundisch (Pomerania). I would be interested in any suggestions readers might have. The countermark is unfortunately in poor condition and the details are not easy to see

The eleventh coin is a Swiss-French combination. The coin is a grosso of 6 soldi struck in Roveredo around 1500 by Johann Jakob Trivulzio, Lord of Mesocco (or, in German, Misox) in

what is now the canton of Graubünden in eastern Switzerland. The fleur-de-lis countermark was the result of a 1640 edict by Louis XIII of France raising the value of minor coins.



Obv.: cross fleury IO.IA.TRIVL. MAR (quis).VIGLE (vani =Vigevano).ET.F (rance).MARE (scalus = Marshal). Indented shield with cords with Trivulzio arms (6 vertical stripes)
 Rev.: .SANCTVS._GEORGIV'. St. George with cap and halo r. spearing dragon at his feet, at his l. fleur de lis c/m

AR. 27.5 mm. 3.58 g. Coin: HMZ 2-571a. Trachsel 1079v (who notes design appears to have been copied from Ferdinand I of Naples coin). CNI IV,p.429,50v. C/M: de Mey Contremarques 40/1/1 (c/m 613)

The 1640 edict proclaimed that the value of douzains circulating in France should be increased to 15 Deniers, 15 Deniers to 18 and pieces of 2 sols and 6 deniers to 3 sols. Old coins had to be brought to the Hotel des Monnaies to be countermarked to be allowed to circulate with the new value. The edict apparently applied also to foreign coins circulating in France. It still might seem surprising that a coin from the Swiss Alps struck over 100 years earlier would be circulating in France. However, Johann Jakob Trivulzio was an eminent soldier who entered the service of the French king in 1495. In 1499, as leader of a French army, he overthrew Ludovico Sforza and delivered Milan to the French. Louis XII made him a Marshal of France and gave him the Sforza castle in Vigevano - hence the titles on this coin.

Moving south, the twelfth coin was struck in Perpignan, close to the Pyrenees, when that city was still part of Spain and was called Perpinyà. The coin, a billon doble sueldo (or 2 sous), was struck during the Catalan Revolt against King Philip IV known as the *Guerra del Segadors* or Reapers' War (1640-52). It started with a riot in Barcelona led by reapers, the peasants who reaped the crops. Catalan peasants, who were forced to quarter violent and unruly Castilian troops during the Franco-Spanish War (1635-59), responded in a series of local rebellions against their presence. During the Reapers' War, many Catalan towns struck their own coinage, notably Barcelona. The revolt had the support of the French monarchy next door and on January 23 1641 King Louis XIII was proclaimed Count of Barcelona. When he died in 1643, his son Louis XIV inherited the title. Coins were struck in both their names. The French occupied Perpignan in 1642. This coin was struck in the name of Louis XIV in 1645.



Obv.: .PERPINANI rosette VILLE. Head of St. John the Baptist c/m on crowned Perpignan arms (gonfalon over lis on vertical bars of Aragon) dividing 1 two annulets 4 & 6 two annulets 5
 Rev.: (cut off, + IN) TER.NATOS. lis. MVL (cut off, IERVVM) (first part of "inter natos mulierum non surrexit maior = among those born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist", Matthew 11,11) Figure of John the Baptist with halo holding sheep (largely obliterated by c/m), at rt. 2 (value) over 2 annulets
 Billon. 22.5 mm. 2.57 g. Droul.MP 2. CCT 154v. Cayon 7003v. Ciani 2030v. Dup.1609v. Cru.C.G.4636b. Cru.Segadors 122. Cal.190v. Botet 956. C/m: de Mey C/M 40/VI/4, cm 625.

There is uncertainty about the countermark. De Mey suggests the coins were countermarked to increase their value and, of course, this was quite common in Spain, with a series of devaluations of copper coinage under Philip IV. However, Dr. Crusafont, on the basis of his research in the Archives Départementales des Pyrénées Orientales, in Perpignan, found that on January 27 1648, the City Council took the decision to countermark genuine coins in the face of a flood of counterfeit coinage into the local market in Perpignan.

Under the Treaty of the Pyrenees signed on 7 November 1659, which formally ended the 1635-1659 war between France and Spain, Roussillon and Perpignan were formally ceded by Spain to France and a new border was fixed at the Pyrenees.

The thirteenth coin is a necessity 12 Groschen struck by Magdeburg in 1629 when the city was besieged by Wallenstein in the Thirty Years' War. On March 6, 1629, Emperor Ferdinand II issued the so-called Restitutionsedikt under which the archbishopric of Magdeburg (and other bishoprics) were to be returned to the Catholics. The city resisted and failed to pay a levy of 150,000 talers. The Imperial army under Wallenstein laid siege to the city, which had to strike so-called necessity coins to pay its bills.



Here is a description of the 12 Groschen:

Obv.: MONO_ MAGDEBURGENSIS rosette Maiden (*Magd* is German for maiden) on city gates with 5-petal rose c/m, breaking out of circle
 Rev.: NECESSITAS. LEGEM. NON. HABET (necessity has no law). rosette .XII./ GROSCHEN/ MAGDEBVR:/ STATGELT./ 16Z9, in circle

AR.. 36 mm. 14.06 g. v.Schrötter 934. KM 260. Brause-Mansf.Taf.17,16. Mailliet Pl.LXXVII,11v. Slg.Hauswaldt 758. C/m: Friederich 171.

I can find no definitive information on the meaning or the date of this countermark. A rose was part of the Magdeburg arms and appears on many Magdeburg coins, including as part of the design (not as a c/m) on other 1629 Magdeburg necessity coins, such as this groschen:



Obv.: Maiden on city gate
 Rev.: NECESSI:CARET. LEGE(necessity is without law).1629 5-petal rose in circle

AR. 20 mm. 0.99 g. v.Schrötter 942. KM 261. Brause-Mansf.Taf.17,24. Mailliet Pl.LXXVII,12. Friedrich 172a.(rose described as a c/m).

Wallenstein's armies withdrew after about 6 months due partly to sickness and bad weather. In 1630 Swedish soldiers arrived to support Magdeburg. However, in March 1631 Magdeburg was besieged again by imperial troops and sacked in May.

The fourteenth countermark is a 1636 2 Pfennig of the town of Herford, in Westphalia, with a city arms c/m.



Obv.: CIVITAS HERVORDIA. Small Herford arms (horizontal bar) c/m on large Herford arms in circle
 Rev.: A.N.N.O.1.6.3.6. .I.I. (value) in circle

CU. 16 mm. 0.88 g. KM 21. Eck.547. Neumann 5460. Coin without c/m: KM 3. Weingartner 938. de Mey MCA 3. Schön Kupfer.2. Grote 70.

The town of Herford grew up around a famous Benedictine abbey founded in 832. It received the right to strike coins and in the 12th century the abbess was elevated to the rank of a princess of the Empire. In time the town became a member of the Hanseatic League and almost a coequal of the abbey. The two struck a joint coinage in the mid 16th century and from about 1580 to 1670 the town minted local issues of its own, including this coin.

In 1631 Herford was recognized as a free Imperial city but it was not able to maintain this status for long. In 1647 Friedrich Wilhelm, Elector of Brandenburg, took possession of the county of Ravensberg which included Herford. He quickly moved to assert his authority over the city and it lost its free status. Friedrich Wilhelm had the circulating 1636 coinage countermarked with either a shield with the Herford arms or the Brandenburg electoral sceptre or both to reflect the change in regime.

Finally, the fifteenth coin is a 1/3 Taler of Friedrich Wilhelm of Brandenburg, The Great Elector, struck in 1671 in Königsberg, with a c/m of the city of Strasbourg:



Obv.: FRID.WILH.D.G. M.B. S.R.I. ARC (archchamberlain of Holy Roman Empire). & EL(ector). Bust r., at neck T.T (= Thomas Timpf, mm 1679-82); at rt. Strasbourg arms c/m (lily over shield with diagonal stripe)

Rev.: .SVPREM.DVX_ IN PRVSSIA. Crown dividing 16 71 over 10-field arms of Magdeburg (divisions per fess), Prussia (crowned eagle), Brandenburg (eagle), Burgrave of Nuremberg (lion rampant l.), Cleve (8-pointed cross fleury), sceptre of Archchamberlain of the Empire, Jülich (lion), Pomerania (griffin), Cassubia (griffin) and Silesia (eagle). , below in legend 1/3 in small shield

31mm. 9.85 g. Coin w/o c/m: Neum.11.63c. v.Schr.664. KM 379 . C/M: de Mey
Contremarques 40/VIII/1 (c/m 627).

De Mey says the countermark was to authorize foreign coins for circulation in 1681 because of a coin shortage. This is not correct.

The first Kipper period (1618-23), when there was an explosion of debased coinage to pay troops at the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, leading to high inflation and a monetary crisis, is well known. The background to this countermark is the less famous Second Kipper period in the second half of the 17th century. With a gradual debasement of the coins issued by many of the Holy Roman Empire states, valuation tables were hung up at town halls to make known the good

and bad sorts of money to protect citizens from the debased coinage. The 9 Taler to the weight of the Cologne Mark of 233.85 g standard laid down in the Imperial Coinage Ordinance of 1566 was gradually abandoned in favour of a new standard of 10 2/3 Talers to the Cologne mark. The 2/3 Taler and the Gulden of 60 Kreuzer became the common currency of North and South Germany. On November 27 1680 the city of Strasbourg published a new rating of Gulden. The full value sorts were worth their struck value corresponding to 60 Kreuzer. Gulden classified as not full value were fixed at 50 Kreuzer while lower valued coins were prohibited. Soon afterwards the city countermarked full value circulating coins with the city arms, the lily over a shield without a frame. Coins countermarked included those of the Bishop and City of Strasbourg themselves, those of the German Emperor, Hanau-Lichtenberg, Colmar and Hagenau, Frankfurt, Goslar and some other cities, as well as the Kings of Sweden and Denmark - and this example from Brandenburg.

Many other German cities would do such countermarking in this period. However, there was an additional French twist in the case of Strasbourg. Louis XIV had conquered parts of Alsace for France during the Thirty Years' War and the subsequent Franco-Dutch War and most of his conquests were confirmed in the Treaties of Westphalia (1648) and Nijmegen ending the war. Often, the borders of these towns were ill-defined and Louis continued to annex small towns and villages. However, Strasbourg remained an independent Imperial free city. Dependent regions were ill-defined. Louis' advisers believed that as long as Strasbourg remained independent, Alsace would never be secure from attack. Indeed, the bridge over the Rhine at Strasbourg had been used repeatedly in the past by Imperial forces. In September 1681 Louis' forces, though lacking a clear *casus belli*, surrounded the city with 30,000 men. After some negotiation, Louis marched into the city unopposed on 30 September 1681 and proclaimed its annexation.

This had numismatic consequences. Since the newly occupied areas could not quickly be provided with French money, the new French Intendant, La Grange, arranged a new Valuation for the whole French region including Strasbourg. Gulden valued at 60 Kreuzer had an “exchange rate” with French currency of 40 sols. These were now counter stamped and the value reduced to 37 sols. The low valued Gulden of 50 Kreuzer (equivalent to 33 1/3 sols) were not countermarked and kept their 1680 value. The substantial devaluation of the Gulden from 40 to 37 sols hurt Strasbourg's economy so that the citizens offered resistance and the merchants submitted complaints. The use of all Gulden and Half Gulden was then forbidden on pain of fines, although they remained in use until 1697. When striking at the Strasbourg mint restarted in 1682 under French rule, these coins bore French values of 1, II, IV, XV and XXX sols, with only the Strasbourg arms being unchanged.

Countermarks are fascinating witnesses of historical events long ago.

Note: Robert Ronus' previous article, *Mysterious Countermarks on 16th-18th century European Coins*, was published in the Nov./Dec. 2016 NI Bulletin.

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A SUGGESTED ACHAEMENID ANCESTRY FOR THE KINGS OF PARTHIA: THE NUMISMATIC EVIDENCE

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Parthia

Parthia was established in 247 BC as a result of a rebellion against Seleukid rule lead by the brothers Arsaces and Tiridates. The former being the leader of the Parni people who lived in Iran. Their overlords descended from Seleukus, one of Alexander the Great's generals, who acquired the Asian portion of the latter's empire after his death.



*Arsaces I r. 247-211 BC
Drachm*

At some point after the kingdom was established, its rulers began suggesting that they were familial descendants of their pre-Seleukid ancestors, the Achaemenids. This being the dynasty Alexander overthrew. While many monarchs claim descent from a previous dynasty to establish legitimacy and prestige, there might be actual evidence to substantiate this particular assertion.

It has been suggested that a nodule first appearing on the coins of the Parthian King Mithradates II who reigned between 123-88 BC demonstrates a disease known as Neurofibromatosis. This is a condition that can be inherited. Further, an Achaemenid Emperor, Artaxerxes II, nicknamed Longinus probably had a disease named unilateral upper limb gigantism. One of the indicators of this illness is irregular limb length, thus



*Mithradates II r. 123-88 BC
Tetradrachm*

the latter's sobriquet. The nodule continued on the portraits of Parthia's rulers until Vologaeses I whose regnal dates were AD 58-78.

As for the Parthian rulers mentioned, Mithradates II was the first to declare himself King of Kings as his Achaemenid ancestors had done. While previous rulers were aware of the connection, he actively proclaimed it as did his successors. One other aspect of his reign was an attempt to control Armenia. As Rome would have similar aspirations in that region, this began an on-going conflict between the two that continued through the end of the Arsacid Dynasty. Both viewed Armenia as a buffer state and fought to maintain influence over its local rulers. Parthia inherited its predecessor, Seleukia's perspective regarding this region. Which leads to this comment: boundaries and names might change, basic politics often does not.

Vologaeses I witnessed a continuation of the conflict over Armenia with Rome and was able to eventually end the conflict, albeit temporarily.

If there is indeed a familial connection between the Achaemenids and Arsacids it might take the following form:



Vologaeses I r. 58-78 Tetradrachm

Artaxerxes II r. 404-358 Achaemenid

Phriapatius b c. 400

Arsaces b. c. 375

Phriapatius b c. 345

Arsaces b. 315

Arsaces I b. 285 brother: Tiridates

As an aside, the Sassanids, the successors to Arsaces' dynasty also adapted an Achaemenid lineage as well for purposes of legitimacy. This was perhaps necessary as they came to power through usurpation. I have this line, however, I consider it mythical, unlike the above, which might have some truth to it.

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